

New York Tribune.

First to Last—the Truth: News—Editorials—Advertisements.

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The German Request.

The German request for a suspension of judgment pending the official report of the commander of the submarine which sank the Arabic will naturally be granted and will with less warrant be made the basis for hope that the peril seen clearly by all now may be averted.

There is only one possibility of a final escape from a perilous break between the United States and the German Empire. This is not to be found in any facts concerning the Arabic incident. If the Germans are able, as seems utterly inconceivable, to build up some defence for this action, the real danger will remain, not in the incident, but in that settled policy which is the cause of the German-American difficulties.

If the German Government desired to abolish all chance of a break with the United States, it could do it by announcing that henceforth its submarine commanders would sink no passenger ships save in conformity with the practices of international law. It has only to abandon the methods revealed in the Lusitania and Arabic incidents to put aside all opportunity for war between the United States and itself. But unless it consents to do this the situation will only undergo a temporary amelioration, if Germany's defence in the Arabic case is even technically sufficient to satisfy the American Government. Permanent improvement there can be no prospect of while German policy remains fixed.

For if the Arabic was not an "incident," accepting the extreme view of a few German newspapers, then there is certain to be a real "incident" without great delay. A man resolved upon murder may escape indictment in a specific case, but if he sticks to his resolution he will kill sooner or later and the crime will bring inevitable consequences.

Every German comment expressed in this country since the Arabic sank follows the same line so clearly indicated by Count Reventlow. All agree in asserting what is wholly evident, that the facts are still unknown to Germans, since the version of their naval officer remains to be supplied. But all equally agree that if the Arabic was sunk as America believes it was sunk, it was an altogether righteous act and only a detail in German naval policy.

Hope of peace and friendly relations cannot be based on such premises. "We don't know whether we murdered Americans, but if we did it was the right thing to do and the thing we intend to continue doing." This is the content of German press comment. Such being the case, what permanent difference will it make whether the Arabic was a case in point or not? If it was not, to-morrow or next day is sure to bring one.

Conceivably—it is just and proper to consider the possibility. Germany has at last recognized what will be the consequences of a policy of murder. Perhaps at the last moment she has determined, in the face of consequences no longer mistakable, to change her policy—abandon her outlawry—consent to live within the law. If she has—so much the better. Here alone is it possible to find any hope for the future.

President Wilson will wait for the German statement. He is bound to do that. He will give it the consideration it merits when it comes. But a mere technical defence, unaccompanied by guarantees for the future, he cannot accept as satisfactory—he cannot permit to stay his decision to break off relations with Germany.

It is unnecessary and unwise to foreclose on the German course. It is highly improper to assume a wholly intransigent attitude while the German statement is yet unmade. Until it is made and found unsatisfactory we must wait patiently and calmly. But we should neither deceive ourselves nor let the Germans be deceived on the main point. Friendly relations between the United States and Germany are hereafter impossible unless Germany renounces a policy of assassination and a campaign of murder which finds American citizens for its victims.

The City Hall Restoration.

Restoration of the interior of the City Hall in all probability might not have been undertaken for years if impetus to the demands for it had not been given by Mrs. Sage's generous act in financing the remodeling of the rotunda and Governor's Room. The effect of that was to start the restoration of a great part of the interior to the condition of beauty and simplicity comparable to the original interior of the edifice.

Great care has been taken by the Municipal Art Commission and the architects to make this work, now about completed, serve purposes of utility as well as aesthetics, so that the city has a building better and safer, as well as far lovelier, than before the patch-work alterations of years had been put into harmony with the exterior of the City Hall.

It is to be hoped that this commendable

work will not be passed over by the citizens. There is no finer building in the city than this; it is a splendid specimen of architecture. An hour or two spent in visiting it would be profitable for any New Yorker not familiar with its beauties, now brought to full bloom again. Many a citizen, presumably full of local pride, will journey to Salem, to Cambridge, to Princeton, to view the fine old Colonial houses which still stand, and there are thousands on thousands who have travelled all over Europe visiting famous edifices who won't go five minutes' walk out of their way to inspect one of the city's choicest possessions.

Retaining "The Tail of the Ticket."

Both the Republican and Democratic parties are pledged to the short ballot principle—the Democrats to a specific reduction in the number of elected officials, the Republicans generally to a "substantial" reduction. If the short ballot scheme recommended by the Constitutional Convention Committee on Governor and Other State Officers be defeated by the machine politicians and officials who are now opposing it, this defeat will constitute a deliberate betrayal of party pledges. Moreover, if some of the delegates vote against it who are now said to be working against it, this will be a deliberate violation of personal pledges.

The merits of the short ballot long ago passed out of the stage of controversy, just as the plan passed out of partisan politics. It is the one means of repairing the political machinery put forward in recent years on which practically everybody has been agreed—everybody but the politicians who find in the dickering over subordinate jobs and the election of their men at "the tail of the ticket" the surest way of maintaining their organizations. The present fight is a fight for jobs, pure and simple. It is an effort to keep patronage within the power of political bosses rather than to place the appointment of state officials in the hands of the Governor, who is likely to be pretty free from domination by those politicians.

There should be no compromise on this. The plan favored by the Committee on Governor and Other State Officers did not go far enough, for it retained the Attorney General as an elective official, against all reason. This should be corrected and the committee should then force a vote in the convention. The public wants a short ballot. If the machine politicians fear it enough to be willing to stand up and be counted against it, they should have the opportunity. The public can deal with them later if they defeat the proposal.

Fighting in the Gulf of Riga.

It is impossible to make out from the fragmentary reports of fighting in the Gulf of Riga exactly what has happened there. The earlier dispatches spoke of a battle in which the Germans had been driven out of the bay with the loss of one battle-cruiser, three cruisers, seven torpedo-boats and four barges filled with troops. This was the announcement said to have been made by the President of the Duma, and the battle-cruiser was expressly identified as the Moltke.

A later statement from Russian naval headquarters is more vague in reckoning the German losses. Admitting the destruction of the Russian gunboat Sivutich, it notes that she had "previously sunk the enemy torpedo-boats," but the number of torpedo-boats is not given. All we are told is that "between the 16th and 21st two enemy cruisers and no less than eight torpedo-boats were either sunk or placed hors de combat." The Moltke is not named at all, but "one of the most powerful dreadnoughts of the German fleet" is said to have been torpedoed by "our gallant allies," not in the gulf, but in the open waters of the Baltic. There is no mention of the attempted landing of troops, and the cautious conclusion is that "the enemy appears to have evacuated the gulf."

A still later statement adds an auxiliary cruiser to the German losses already announced, and intimates that "the importance of this fight consisted in preventing the Germans for a certain time from forcing our position."

No report of these operations has as yet come from Germany, and the news we have is so contradictory to justify definite conclusions. The later reports are certainly less glowing than the first, and all that can be gathered from them is that the Germans have suffered a temporary reverse in the attempt to take Riga. If the statement made in the Duma was well founded we should be justified in regarding this as one of the most important naval engagements that have occurred so far in the war, but that statement is apparently qualified by the subsequent reports.

The loss of the Moltke, one of the most formidable of Germany's fighting ships, would be a serious matter; but was the Moltke lost? In the later announcements we are left in doubt whether the unnamed "dreadnought"—supposing this to be the Moltke—was actually sunk. No announcement has been made by the British Admiralty as yet. In any case, this event appears to have been independent of the fighting in the Gulf of Riga, which was evidently an affair in which small vessels only were concerned.

It is disappointing that no particulars are given in the official reports of the landing or attempted landing of troops. Except in the announcement attributed to the President of the Duma, the barges are not even mentioned. According to a dispatch from Petrograd, however, three large transports approached the shore and before the landing could be effected they were all sunk. If this is true the enterprise of the Germans was extraordinarily bold, not to say reckless. Without anything approaching an assured command of the sea they apparently undertook to land a considerable force without even silencing the batteries at the point of landing. Some further explanation of the expedition is surely necessary, for it seems hardly credible that they so

underrated the enemy as to expose themselves to so obvious a peril.

The Russian fleet compared with the German is weak; if the reports that have been given out are correct, how is it possible to account for the deliberate risking of vessels and men involved in such an attack? The Russian force on sea was apparently not even effectively masked and the transports were so badly handled, according to the accounts, that they lay for two hours under the fire of the shore batteries and were smashed to pieces. It is true that in the early part of this month there was a report from Petrograd of the sinking of a large German transport apparently bound the same way, so it is conceivable that an attempt of this sort is considered desirable even at the risk of interference by the Russian fleet. But the reports received so far are so conflicting and so vague that it is well to wait for further intelligence before drawing conclusions.

Jewelry Styles.

The president of the National Retail Jewelers' Association is authority for the statement that the articles the members sell are not luxuries. Far from it! They are a necessity of the "higher civilization." Moreover, they play so important a part in life's developments that the time has come, it has been decided, to subject them to changes in fashion. Any person of real pretensions to membership in the higher civilization who hereafter wears her diamonds and pearls in the same setting for more than one season will be distinctly anti-social—she will be, practically, an outcast and a social criminal.

Though it portray a sad, sad state of affairs in this country of pretensions to civilization, it is altogether probable that something like Teutonic autocracy will be necessary to enforce this decree. Not that there will not be a small, select circle who gladly and willingly will live up to it. "Diamond Jim" Brady has, and inevitably always will have, followers and competitors in the genial art of outshining Broadway's lights with his jewels. But the hard, cold truth is that, so far as most of us are concerned, it takes so much effort and so much cash to accumulate the modest ornaments termed "the family jewels" that there's none left for seasonal alterations and additions.

Moreover, a fundamental truth was once enunciated—regarding diamonds—by "Fingey" Connors, who maintained "Them as has 'em wears 'em." They do, and possession in any style of fabrication is held to justify it, regardless of deviation from the current year's styles. The malefactor of great wealth finds it necessary to change his imported motor car each year just as his wife has her precious gems reset for better display at the Metropolitan opening. But the horny-handed ordinary American drives his Ford year after year, and his wife dons the same old rings with pardonable pride when they go out in the evening to the moving picture show. Neither stratum of society is likely to change its habits, which doesn't indicate a great likelihood of our having magazines devoted to fashions in jewelry as some are now devoted to fashions in clothes.

Wrist Watching.

It begins to look as if the long, up-hill fight of the wrist watch for serious male recognition was almost won. Uncle Sam has ordered 400 of the species for his cavalry officers. Peeping from beneath the khaki sleeve and spanning the tanned and corded carpus of the fighter, they would at least appear safe from the jibes of cartoonists and café warriors. The Chicago policeman who was rebuked lately by his chief for wearing one may now have his revenge.

But as a matter of fact wrist watches have long been worn by army officers in this country, and by the rank and file, as well as the officers, abroad. Will Irwin found them common among the men in the trenches, who, however, were later forbidden to wear them because too many serious wounds had resulted from having their wrists driven into the forearm by the enemy's bullets. This danger is probably not considered serious in the case of the cavalry. And neither this danger nor the more appalling one, luckily now almost past, of being dubbed a sissy, a mollycoddle, a highbrow or a pacifist, has deterred such males as Police Commissioner Woods, Mayor Mitchell, Christy Mathewson or Louis Disbrow from forming the habit, a habit which is spreading like wildfire at Plattsburg, introduced there possibly by our martial Police Commissioner and Mayor.

It is only in this country that ridicule has been the portion of this labor-saving device, probably because it was viewed as a protection against the peculiar mode of chastisement reserved for the effeminate. But the first thing they know those who now rail at it will be in a fair way of being slapped on the wrist by those who affect it. It may be necessary soon to wear a wrist watch to prove one's martial intentions.

We are forced to conclude that the advice to the Kaiser's agent to "buy land" was a disguised reference to the Fatherland.

German Money and Neutrals.

(From The Dundee Advertiser.) A Prussian statesman boasted the other day that, as Germans were living on the country of the enemy, the war expenditure was much lighter than that of the Allies. There is, nevertheless, one item as to which Germans have been very extravagant without reaping the benefit expected. The German propaganda in neutral states has been carried on with a lavish outlay of money. Prince Bulow spent enormous sums in Rome, Baron Schöck at Athens, is receiving very large subsidies. German money has been flowing like a Paetolian stream in the Balkans, and, needless to add, the amount expended by Herr Neuburg in America was "kolossal," and that even in China German agents have been flinging German cash about with reckless profusion.

LYNCH LAW IN SOUTHERN EYES

Deplored by Many as a Dangerous Expression of Anarchy.

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: As a Northerner who has lived much in the South I would like to give the wide publicity of your columns to the words of the late Robert Means Davis and Lynch law. They are a timely defence against the mistaken idea that persons of intelligence defend mob violence because they happen to be Southerners. Those who palliate lynching in the South belong to the class of illiterates or are of those on the verge of it.

Professor Davis was for many years teacher of history in the University of South Carolina. A masterly and genial scholar, he was also, it would seem, a prophet, for what he predicted ten years ago has veritably come to pass in the Frank case. He was treating of anarchy (probably the French Revolution suggested it), and branched into the subject of Lynch law. I was astonished and impressed with what he said, and have often made use of his words to refute my Northern friends in their wholesale case against the Southerner. In meeting him outside the classroom I heard him protest vigorously on the subject, and deplore the fact that the South, which had given the world so many distinguished jurists, should also provide such spectacles of anarchy. His words as I made note of them were:

"Lynch law is only a fantastic name for murder, and every man who excuses it excuses murder; every man who assists in its performance is a murderer. To-day it is invoked against the negro; but in the end it will turn against the whites who have employed it. Without distinction of race or color, wherever Lynch law is allowed to prevail justice will be rendered impossible. We shall yet see in these Southern states the courts of justice besieged by the mob, and we will be driven to protect judge and jury with the militia."

The disgrace which has come upon Georgia was exactly foretold in those words. He expressed, however, only the opinions and the fears of every thinking man and woman of the South.

W. READ HERSEY.

Sagamore Beach, Mass., Aug. 21, 1915.

Away with the Hyphen.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: A news item this morning apprises the public that a certain organization formed under German-American (sic) auspices, and calling itself "The Friends of Peace," has dispatched to the President of the United States a telegram signed by one John Brisben Walker, chairman, presuming to advise and even warn the President as to his duties and rights under the Constitution.

This is a free country, and freedom of speech is guaranteed to all, which means that any person or set of persons is privileged to give public utterance to any ideas, however insane, which they may be pleased to entertain. Therefore it were idle to waste breath in commenting on the silly and disingenuous sophistries and wilful perversions of fact contained in the telegram referred to.

It is, however, going a step too far when any foreign or semi-foreign organization has the unparalleled impudence to offer advice to the President as to his duties. It is a piece of unpardonable insolence which should not be tolerated for a moment.

And let me further say in this same connection that it is high time for all of us clearly to understand and bear constantly in mind that there is only one kind of American citizen. It is time to abandon the general use of such loose and meaningless expressions as "German-Americans," "Anglo-Americans" and the like—and, pre-eminently, it is time for all those who have been classing themselves as German-Americans to choose, once and for all, either one side of the hyphen or the other.

There is not, and there never can be, such a thing as a German-American. A loyal American citizen of German birth or extraction is perfectly conceivable, and differs in no whit from any other real American. Likewise, one can understand and respect a loyal German subject residing temporarily in this country. But a mixture of the two is a glaring contradiction in terms, an inconceivable and misbegotten hybrid, neither fish, flesh nor fowl, and good red herring; as absurd and grotesque an impossibility as the Stock Turtle in "Alice in Wonderland."

GEORGE WESTERVELT.

New York, Aug. 22, 1915.

Bride's Promise and Groom's.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: Some time ago a man said, after examining conditions in the states where women vote, that equal suffrage had increased party jealousy and unfriendly strife among the women, except in Wyoming. He said in considering the working of this question the women of Wyoming must be left out; that they were in a class by themselves; of superior character and intelligence. He did not seem to see that he was arguing for suffrage and not against it, for the women of Wyoming have voted since 1869.

Mr. Eli Appelbaum need not work himself into a state of mind as to what might, could, or would happen if women voted; all he need do is to remove his blinders and look at the question from all sides. I have six names quoted in four states and I have a clear understanding of its practical working out.

As to taking literally the "obey" part of the bride's promise the conscientious Mr. Appelbaum might do well to consider the bridegroom's promise to endow his bride with all his worldly goods and his practical working. An hour after the ceremony in many instances even the bride's wearing apparel does not belong to her, and the house, in after years, the wife helps to buy can be sold by the aforesaid dower without even consulting her.

SARA T. LEFFERTS.

Elizabeth, N. J., Aug. 22, 1915.

"Fear Play."

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: Now it would seem is the time to discard Fear Play. War is not play, and all is fair in war! The Cruikshank letter in today's issue of The Tribune indicates a use of fear play, to incite this nation to abandon the aforethought of the founders of our Republic and entangle us in an offensive alliance, which can but result in placing us forever on the defensive. It is demanded we weigh our anchors and drift into the Sargasso Sea of European retrogression, whence there would be no return.

And this sacrifice to be consumed for what? Not as the specious pleas put it, for humanity, but to retrieve the fortunes of the beaten nations, whose gratitude measured by the world's standards, would enrich us with a share in their indebtedness. As for fending off future attacks—no known method could more positively assure such underlying takings.

It is a fact worth remarking that those who would embroil our fair land go not adventuring to the field of battle, preferring to let others do it.

CARL A. KEHEWIEDE.

New York, Aug. 22, 1915.

THE FISHERMAN.



TO CREATE AN OFFICERS' RESERVE.

Military Science Is a Highly Technical Vocation Which Needs Constant Brushing Up.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: In the writer's humble opinion, The Tribune has scored another bull's-eye in its editorial of the 15th entitled "An Officers' Reserve."

It must be evident to those who know something of the military game that these rookies at Plattsburg "are, in effect, the small end of a megaphone through which his (General Wood's) words of military wisdom may penetrate to the uttermost ends of the land." If four weeks at Plattsburg will turn out efficient officers, why four years at West Point—making due allowance for the time devoted to scientific and liberal studies, which most of the Plattsburg rookies have already had?

Military science is a highly specialized and, in many respects, technical vocation. Perhaps none realize this more than do our National Guard officers who, after years spent in practice and study, need constantly to brush up and read anew in order to pass the periodic examinations required of them. The very business men who are now at Plattsburg would not intrust a position in their offices with the responsibilities of a commissioned officer to a man, however bright, who came to them with only a month's preparation in as important duties. Large corporations, such as the Pennsylvania Railroad and the large electrical and manufacturing concerns, conduct courses in their shops in duration from six months to four years, which many engineering graduates enter; and lucky are these men to get a foreman's job upon completion of the course.

The school at Plattsburg is a good thing. We ought to have more like it. But let us not misinterpret its value. That value is chiefly the experience these business men will get out of it; the effect it will have in opening their eyes to the magnitude and seriousness of the proposition of adequate military preparation, and through them the dissemination of this knowledge to the public and our legislators.

Whatever plans may be made for developing an officers' reserve adequate in size and training, our first duty is unquestionably to make use of what we have. There are thousands of men with years of training in the regular service and in the National Guard—men with experience as non-coms. and commissioned officers, who have the qualifications, physically, mentally and morally, to fit them for command—who are rusting in civil life, when they ought to be organized into a reserve, required to attend schools, perhaps to drill three or four times a year, given opportunity to attend camp with the active troops and assigned as officers of skeleton organizations, working in harmony and developing esprit de corps. There are other thousands, discharged as privates, who are available as non-coms. or privates, who should likewise be organized and brushed up in their duties.

There is much that is attractive in military service. Men who have seen service, who are not shirkers and come willingly, could be moulded into very efficient skeleton organizations. With light demands upon their time, it should be easy to obtain volunteers for such a reserve. The association of men with military experience in an organization with a common aim would tend toward a morale that no new organization would have, and morale, Napoleon said, is 75 per cent of efficiency. The State of New York has a new law upon its statute books which partially meets this need, but it refers to ex-commissioned officers alone and does not go far enough. There should be a more comprehensive effort in this direction, not alone in this state, but throughout the country; that is, a national reserve.

Your editorial also discounts the idea of placing dependence to any extent for an officers' reserve upon graduates of those state colleges giving military instruction under the Morrill land grant act and other college students who have merely attended the Plattsburg and similar camps.

The writer was a student at one of the land grant colleges some years ago, and we

had military drill as often as four afternoons a week during the fall and spring. However, the whole matter was taken very much as a joke by the great majority of the students and discipline was almost zero. We had better discipline by far in the Boys' Brigade to which I had formerly belonged. This was partly due to the commandant of cadets, a retired army officer, who had seen active service in the Indian campaigns, but hadn't the art of getting the men interested. I have heard of a former officer there who had this quality of enlisting the men's interest, but it is an uphill job at the best, for the students are there for another purpose and consider a military drill and the study of tactics as a necessary evil. This was a condition not only where I attended, but I heard directly from students at at least two other such colleges that it prevailed there.

It is unfortunate that this is so, for there is no question that here is the very material that, with the proper incentive, could be welded into the needed military officer after service with troops. It is a question whether by offering a bonus or subsidy to students specializing in military studies, the needed interest could be brought about. The idea is not entirely worthy and the best results can be obtained where there is a true esprit de corps, such as at a strictly military school. There are such schools, and no doubt some of them are very efficient. The writer has no personal knowledge of them, however.

The post-graduate summer camp, being of such short duration, has the same objections that apply to the business men's camp at Plattsburg. Therefore, unless the students' course there can be extended and in addition graduated to be progressive during succeeding seasons and unless the necessary incentive can be found for students of land grant colleges, such as a separate and self-contained military school, our reliance, as you advocate, must be placed in an enlarged West Point and perhaps its duplicate in the West.

Comment on an officers' reserve should not close without reference to the opportunities presented in the National Guard. It is not the lot of all of us to be college students nor to have time to attend summer camps such as at Plattsburg, but any able-bodied young man or even middle aged man of good habits can obtain excellent training in the Guard, and get more or less enjoyment out of it at that. The writer speaks from an experience of almost eight years, and hopes he may be able to remain years longer.

It is, in fact, the duty of young men to join the Guard. A singular case in point was recounted to me by an officer of the intelligence and consciousness of statement of an operator on a military telephone in delivering a message to him in the recent summer tour of duty. Good operators are the exception, so he took time to look up the man, and found him to be a professor in a well known educational institution, thirty-five years of age, who had decided that he owed something to his country that he hadn't paid as yet, and had therefore recently enlisted. There is opportunity for men of the proper type to advance to be non-coms. and later to be commissioned officers. It will not be accomplished in a week or four weeks; but the training will be thorough if the state legislature is liberal enough to provide suitable field practice, and associations on the road. Further, he will be discharging a duty to his country and to himself.

CAVALRY.

Brooklyn, Aug. 21, 1915.

What Most Americans Feel.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: Having been a constant reader of The Tribune for several years, let me thank you for the splendid editorial in today's Tribune on "An Inconceivable Blunder."

I believe you express the sentiments of the great majority of the American people. To continue friendly relations with the imperial German government would be to surrender all rights and honor.

Again let me thank you for your magnificent editorial. ARTHUR G. KAYHART.

New York, Aug. 23, 1915.

"A LOVERS' QUARREL"

"G. K. C.'s" Views on Feminism Denounced as Rank Sentimentality.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: "A lovers' quarrel"—that is Mr. Chesterton's term for one of the most sordid and ignoble chapters of human history, the age-long struggle of women for human rights in face of the blind, instinctive, dog-in-the-manger opposition of men.

One must be either an inveterate optimist or a drooling sentimentalist to use so pleasant an analogy in this relation, especially if one knows the ugly facts of that history. The basis of a lovers' quarrel is usually a misunderstanding arising from the fact that language started so much later than emotion that it has not yet caught up with it. The brutal law that the physically strong seek to oppress and thwart the weak. Says Chesterton: "The quarrel between the rich and the poor may be settled. The quarrel between man and woman can never be settled, for it is a lovers' quarrel." The tinkle-tinkle cleverness of this analogy cannot hide its absurdity, for the very essence of a lovers' quarrel is that it is settled, and settled quickly. And so the awful thought, unbidden, arises within us: Can it be that all the cleverness of our paradoxical Mr. Chesterton is due to false analogy and lary sentimentalism?

For lazy is none too strong a word to apply to a man who sets up and bows over the old straw man argument that "suffrage will not bring the millennium," and thinks he has disposed of the suffrage question; who exalts his own petty personal prejudices against innovation and thinks he is reasoning; who is so befuddled by charges of election frauds that he considers voting itself of no value to any one, since "the machine will win anyhow"; who is so tired and disillusioned that, ostrich-like, he buries his moral torpidity in "cleverness" and expects to be passed unnoticed.

Creep into thy narrow bed—
Creep, and let no more be said.
Vain thy onset! All stands fast.
Thou thyself must break at last.

Let the long contention cease!
Geese are swans and swans are geese.
Let them have it how they will!
Thou art tired; best be still.

Mr. Chesterton is tired, so tired, in fact, that he finds all effort, political, moral or mental, too exhausting, so he sinks back with a sigh into the slough of despond and pretty sentimentalism. For it is pretty to conceive of the kitchen as a place of fairies and goblins; it is still prettier to speak of "the epic of the washing day," but why stop there with our sentimentalism? Why not go on and speak of the "glory of the ballot box," "the priceless boon of loving man to noble womanhood," etc., etc.? But, no, Chesterton is a conservative even in sentimentalism; only the past is lovely enough to deserve his garlands of pretty epithets. Besides, it is so much easier to wax poetic over the good old things of the past—the kitchen, wash day and that glorious sentiment of our grandfather, "woman's place is in the home." There are no time honored smiles for the ballot box; we should have to make new ones, and that involves thought, and thought is so fatiguing to the spiritual old thought is so fatiguing to the spiritual old.

Mr. Chesterton's cleverness is exceedingly depressing; it is the phosphorescence of a decadent spirit, so let's sit back and laugh at the humbugs, so let's sit back and laugh at the humbugs, so let's sit back and laugh at the humbugs; democracy is a failure, so let's not seek to find a reason nor apply any remedy, for what's the use? "The machine will win anyhow." Finally, don't let's think; logic is so "brutal," facts are so horrid; it is so much nicer to close our eyes and dream of the glorious day when once more the spirit of sentimentalism shall rule the minds and hearts of men, and the kitchen be a fairy-land, wash day an epic and all women domestic.

W. E. MUNROE, M. D.

Brooklyn, Aug. 18, 1915.

Praise.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: Permit me to express to you my appreciation of your war editorials. They not only cover the situation in a masterly way, but are a delight to read as real literature.

LIDA HARKNESS.

Sargentville, Me., Aug. 22, 1915.